



## Blueberry Picking Begins

Days suitable for field work, the week ending Sunday, June 18, 2006, were 6.5. Topsoil moisture was rated 20% short, 70% adequate, and 10% surplus. Temperatures averaged above normal north, and near normal central and south, across the state. There were measurable amounts of precipitation in most localities for the week. Agricultural producers continued vegetable harvest, hay harvest, spraying, and topdressing fertilizer. Second cutting of hay continued in the southern district. There was a report of some green leaf hoppers in alfalfa hay in some southern hayfields. Cabbage harvest began in the north. Planting of pumpkins and winter squash began in the south. Harvest of lettuce, carrots, cucumbers, turnips, radishes, and herbs continued in the south. Picking of blueberries started in some southern fields. There was a report of some fire blight in scattered northern apple orchards. Pasture was rated in mostly fair to good condition.

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### JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR JUNE 19, 2006

**Arugula & Kale** - Good quality products are being harvested in good volume.

**Baby Arugula & Baby Spinach** - Harvesting in good quality and volume.

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**Basil** – Harvesting good quantities of very good quality product with the increasing temperatures.

**Beets** – A good volume of good quality product is available.

**Blueberries** – Fair quantities of early varieties like Weymouth. Much more widely planted Duke variety just started this past weekend with volume available later this week. Fruit quality and size for all varieties looks very good. A better than average crop is expected this year.

**Cabbage** – Harvesting good quantities of very good quality product.

**Cilantro/Dill/Parsley** – A good volume of very good quality Spring planted product is now harvesting.

**Collards** – Harvesting good quantities of very good quality product.

**Cucumbers** – Harvesting a fair to increasing quantity of good quality Pickles (Kirby cucumbers). A light to increasing quantity of good quality Cukes just started.

**Escarole & Endive** – Harvesting a fair to decreasing quantity of good quality product.

**Leeks** – A light volume of over-wintered product is available now and for some time. Transplanted product should be available by the end of the week. Spring planted due in July.

**Lettuce** – All good quality. Harvesting light to decreasing quantities of Boston, Red and Green Leaf, and Iceberg with the increasing temperatures. Still harvesting fair quantities of Romaine.

**Peas** – Harvesting a good volume of great quality local peas, Fava beans and Snap beans.

**Radishes** – Being harvested in light to decreasing volume and good quality.

**Spinach** – Fair to decreasing volume of good quality Spring planted being harvested with increasing temperatures.

**Squash** – Harvesting good quantities of very good quality Yellow and Zucchini.

**Strawberries** – The season is finishing up.

**Tomatoes** – Field grown should begin later this week or early next week with minimal volume and high prices. Volume available around the first week of July.

**Swiss Chard** – A good volume of great quality Spring planted product is available.

**Turnips** – Harvesting good quality product in fair volume.

### JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

**Cantaloupes** – Tunnel started product should become available by the end of the month or early July. Volume available by mid-July.

**Eggplant** – Harvest will begin the second week of July. Volume increasing each week thereafter.

**Peaches/Nectarines** – Harvest should begin a bit earlier than normal. Yellow peach volume will start with the Sentry variety around mid-July. White peach volume should begin with the White Lady variety in late July or early August. Nectarine volume will also start in late July or early August.

**Peppers** – Harvest will begin by the end of the month. Volume increasing each week thereafter.

**Sweet Corn** – Harvest should begin this week for corn started under plastic. Field grown corn should start this weekend with volume expected by the end of the month. Good quality and fair quantity expected for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Peak of season should be the third week of July. Good wholesale availability until at least the week after Labor Day. Quantity and quality varies after that due to Fall insect pressures.